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RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 002153

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ELA  
TREASURY FOR BEN DENNIS AND CHARLES MORAVEC  
COMMERCE FOR TOM SAMS AND NATE MASON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/02/2018

TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [EG](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: REFORM FATIGUE AT THE HOUSING MINISTRY Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d) ----- Summary -----  
1.(SBU) In a recent meeting, Egypt's Housing Minister Ahmed El-Maghraby told the Ambassador that Egypt needed to maintain a "certain balance" b  
2.(SBU) On September 2, the Ambassador met with Ahmed Amin El-Maghraby, Egyptian Minister of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Development. El-Magh  
3.(SBU) El-Maghraby said that he intended to introduce new legislation to address the rent control issue next year--focusing his efforts on rer  
4.(U) The minister also discussed the new building law which went into effect in 2007. This law, he said would, if fully implemented, eliminate  
5.(U) With regards to agricultural land, the minister pointed out that the first-ever building permit on rural land was issued in 2008. In resp  
6.(SBU) When the discussion moved to foreign assistance, El-Maghraby said that, in his view, policy reform and technical assistance are just as  
7.(C) The Ambassador talked about how some elements of the GOE have voiced the possibility that Egypt is no longer interested in US assistance.  
8.(C) El-Maghraby told the Ambassador that she had assumed her post at a "most intriguing time." In his opinion, liberalization had created a l  
9.(C) El-Maghraby told the Ambassador that Egyptian society has three pillars: government, the people, and the press. He worried that liberaliz  
10.(C) El-Maghraby remains firmly in the camp of Egypt's economic reformers and is considered an ally of Gamal Mubarak. Though well-respected,